

INCENDIARISM IS CORONER'S VERDICT ON DESTRUCTION OF WAR ORDERS PLANT

Provincial Chief Rogers Finds
That Grant, Holden, Graham,
Ltd. Fire Was Deliberately Set
—Three Distinct Blazes.

FIRM ABSOLUTELY NOT TO BLAME FOR OUTBREAK

In a report to the attorney-general on the fire which gutted the plant of the Grant-Holden-Graham Company three weeks ago, Chief Rogers, of the provincial police, in his capacity of provincial coroner, finds that the blaze was incendiary. He says there were three fires in the building burning at the same time, but that there was no evidence to show that these were set for rapid destruction, such as with oils or chemicals.

The fire under the large cutting bench was deliberately started, according to the chief, and while he is not sure as to the way the other two began, he believes that this is evidence that all three blazes were caused by human agencies, although no trace of alien enemies could be found among the workers and there was nothing to show who had started the blaze.

Firm Suffered Heavily.

He finds that there were few rejected goods in the building at the time of the fire, and from the Militia Department he learns that the firm had many government contracts, and had had but little of the goods returned even for minor repairs.

“That the fire had absolutely no connection with the outbreak of fire is the conclusion reached by Coroner Rogers, who holds that they suffered great financial loss in the blaze.

The report of the findings was received by Crown Attorney Ritchie this morning.

Chief Rogers in his testimony says that the fires could have been started by employees without other employees knowing, although he cannot see any reason for an employee wishing to start the fire. He also points out that other firms were evidently disappointed in not getting the contracts secured from the government by the Grant-Holden-Graham Co.